

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 329

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: CDS POSITION ON AZORES

1. CDS NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, AMARODA COSTA VISITING AZORES AT REQUEST OF LOCAL PARTY. HE TOLD ME THAT ALTHOUGH AZORES ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO PORTUGAL'S ROLE IN EUROPE, HE FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO OPPOSE INDEPENDENCE PUBLICLY SINCE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS AND SAO TOME HAVE BEEN GRANTED INDEPENDENCE. NOR WOULD HE WISH TO DENY AZORES INDEPENDENCE IF PORTUGAL WERE COMMUNIST. CDS, RECOGNIZING LEGITIMATE AZOREAN COMPLAINTS, FAVORS EXTENSIVE AUTONOMY: A TYPE OF COMMONWEALTH STATUS. AZORES WOULD HAVE LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT, BUT WOULD KEEP PORTUGUESE FLAG, MONEY, AND LISBON WOULD ONLY CONTROL FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DEFENSE. HE SAID SOCIALISTS ASKED HIM TO MAKE STATEMENT AS CDS SPOKESMAN IN FAVOR OF NATIONAL UNITY, BUT HE TOLD THEM HE COULD ONLY DO IT IF PS SUPPORTS CDS POSITION ON AZOREAN AUTONOMY. HE THINKS IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR EITHER PS OR PPD AT NATIONAL LEVEL TO SUPPORT CDS POSITION.

2. COSTA HAS THEORY AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE LINKED TO ANGOLA QUESTION. ACCORDING TO THIS THEORY, SOVIETS DEEPLY INTERESTED
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IN CONTROLLING ANGOLA AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE AZORES DECLARE

INDEPENDENCE SOON SO IT COULD ENGINEER CAMPAIGN BLAMING USG AND NATO. RESULTING FUROR WOULD PREVENT US AND WEST FROM ACTING IN ANGOLA. COSTA SAID HE HAS LEARNED THAT FILES TAKEN FROM PCP HEADQUARTERS IN PONTA DEL GADA SHOW SOVIET PLAN TO HELP AZOREAN COMMUNISTS. COSTA BELIEVES PCP ALLOWED THESE FILES TO BE CAPTURED IN EFFORT TO SPUR INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT HE HAS BEEN USING THIS ARGUMENT TO TRY TO PERSUADE FLA LEADERS TO POSTPONE INDEPENDENCE MOVE.

3. COSTA SAID EMISSARY OF MEDA ANTUNES IS HERE TO WIN SUPPORT OF FLA LEADERS FOR AZOREAN BASED CAMPAIGN OF MODERATES TO GAIN IN CONTROL OF PORTUGAL. HE BELIEVES EMISSARY WILL FAIL. COSTA IS CONVINCED FLA LEADERSHIP PARTIALLY CONTROLLED BY EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT IN HIS OPINION RECENT FLA ANTI COMMUNIST MOVES BEAR EAR MARK OF SOPHISTICATED, EXPERT EUROPEAN GUIDANCE. HE CLAIMED MILITARY SOURCE TOLD HIM FLA HAS MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN FRANCE.

4. COMMENT: FRANCE IS, NO DOUBT, THE COUNTRY COSTA BELIEVES ASSISTING FLA. THERE HAVE BEEN PERSISTENT STORIES OF FRENCH SUPPORT FOR FLA. FLA SYMPATHIZERS HAVE CLAIMED SUPPORT FROM VARIETY OF COUNTRIES INCLUDING BOTH ISRAEL AND ARABS, WHICH WE BELIEVE, TO BE WISHFUL THINKING, HOWEVER, PERSISTENCE OF STORY OF FRENCH, IS UNIQUE AND WE WONDER IF THERE IS SOME TRUTH TO IT.
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